

**Los Alamos**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Environmental, Safety, and Health

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Spring 1998

# Site-Wide EIS

*Employee Information Quarterly*

Information for employees about the U.S. Department of Energy's Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for LANL

## GLOSSARY

### DOE

Department of Energy

### EIS

Environmental Impact Statement, a written report documenting a formal analysis of major federal actions that could result in significant impacts to the human environment

### NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the first major U.S. law that addressed protecting the environment

### ROD

Record of Decision, a concise public document issued after the completion of a site-wide EIS stating the DOE's decision on the proposed action evaluated in the document.

### Scoping

the process of inviting public participation in the preparation of an environmental review document, required by NEPA

### Stakeholder

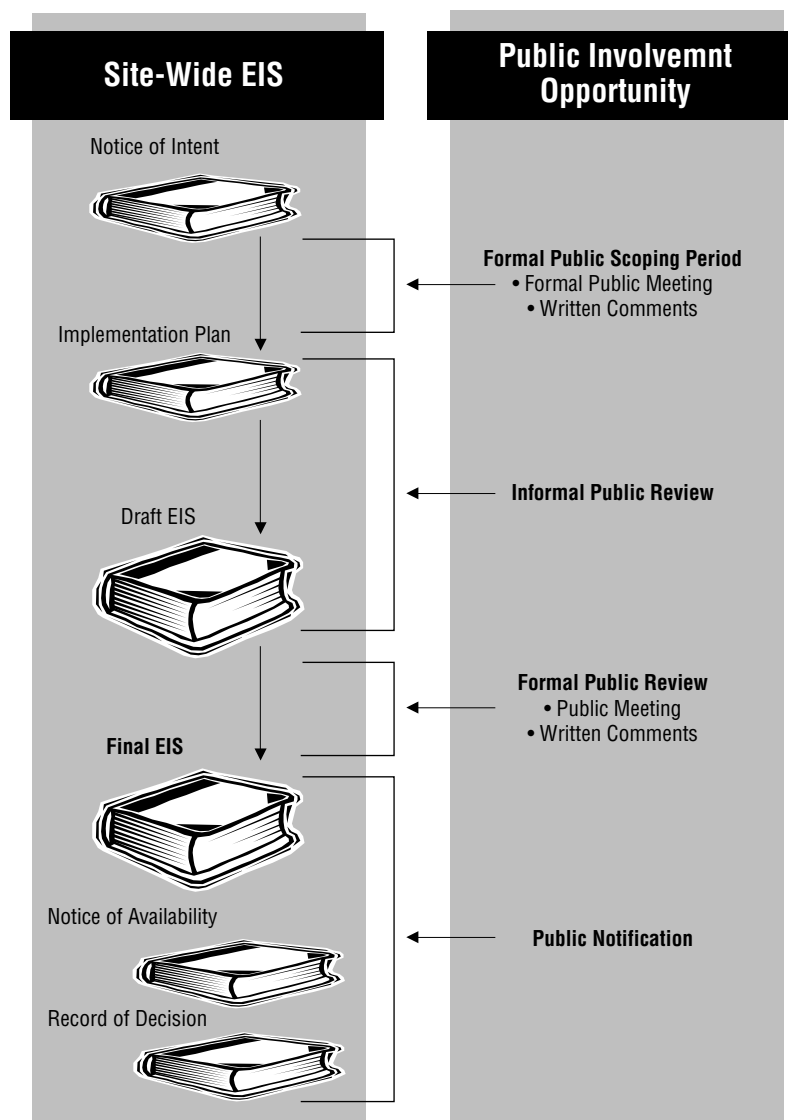
any person or organization interested in or affected by activities at a DOE site

## Department of Energy Announces May 15 Availability of Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement Draft

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced the publication of the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The draft SWEIS was made available for stakeholder review on May 15, 1998. The public comment period will continue until July 15 (60 days rather than the required 45 days), and public meetings are scheduled for June 9, 10, and 24 in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Española, respectively. The SWEIS documents the DOE's comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts of current and potential future operations at LANL.

The LANL SWEIS provides an overview of current and proposed operations for LANL by analyzing impacts on the environment, impacts of alternative courses of action, and potential actions being considered to mitigate adverse impacts these activities may have on the environment. The SWEIS addresses on-going operations and planned new activities currently foreseen at LANL for the next five-to-ten years.

The SWEIS Advance Notice of Intent, published in the Federal Register on August 10, 1994 (59 FR 40889) identified possible issues and alternatives to be analyzed. Based on public input received during prescoping, DOE published the



Notice of Intent to prepare the SWEIS in the Federal Register on May 12, 1995 (60 FR 25697). DOE held a series of public meetings during prescoping and scoping to provide opportunities for stakeholders to identify the issues, environmental concerns, and alternatives that

*(continued on page 4)*

## Current Time Line

This time line shows the most current schedule for completion of the SWEIS. The original schedule has been revised, and is subject to further changes as the site-wide EIS process evolves.

### 1994

Advance Notice of Intent

### 1995

Notice of Intent

May  
Public Scoping

June  
Implementation Plan

### 1996-1997

Alternatives Development

Data Collection &  
Development

Environmental Analysis

### 1998

Draft SWEIS

May  
Public Comment Period

May 15-July 15  
Final SWEIS

November

### 1999

Record of Decision

January

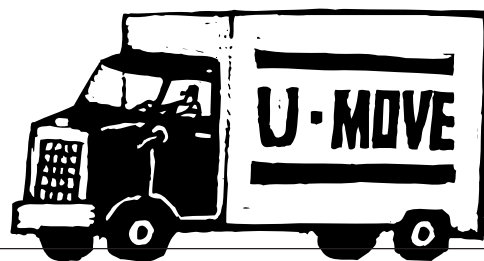
## SWEIS Project Office: Moving and Changing

When the Site-Wide EIS Project Office was first established by the Environment, Safety, and Health Division in October of 1994, its stated purpose was "to provide a single point of contact within the Laboratory to support the Department of Energy's site-wide EIS process." The evolving needs of the site-wide EIS have required that the Project Office maintain flexibility, creativity, and responsiveness in order to meet its purpose. The Project Office has been called upon by DOE to provide support in a variety of ways, all within its original scope of tasks—providing baseline information, and facilitating access to data and facilities—but requiring that the Project Office adapt its staff, organization, and daily efforts.

From a beginning staff of five, the Project Office at its height coordinated efforts that involved hundreds of people within the Laboratory—including Points of Contact for each "key" facility as identified by the DOE, Subject Matter Experts, teams to develop alternatives for each key facility and to assist the DOE with data collection and development. When the data collection phase was completed, the Project Office reduced its staff and focused its efforts on responding to requests from the DOE, establishing the Laboratory's review process for the site-wide EIS document itself, completing information documents, and initiating closure mechanisms for the eventual end of the project.

As identified in the original Quality Management Plan written before the office was opened, one of the final tasks of the Project Office will be to make recommendations to the Laboratory about establishing a procedure to ensure that any mitigation measures for potential impacts proposed by the DOE and identified in the Mitigation Action Plan are implemented and tracked.

The Project Office has recently moved its reduced operations and staff from the Eastgate Industrial Park to space within TA-21, where the Laboratory's ongoing NEPA activities are coordinated. You can continue to reach the Project Office staff at 665-8969.



### We've Moved!

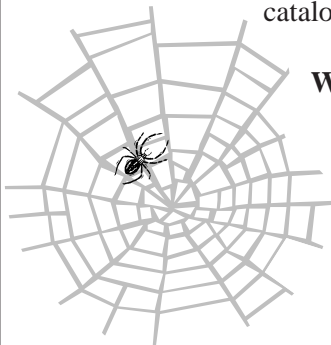
Our new location is TA-21,  
Building 210, Room 140.

Telephone: 665-8969 • Fax: 665-8970

Mail Stop: M889

## SWEIS Information Documents Now Online

These information documents prepared by the LANL SWEIS Project Office are now available as electronic publications online and soon will be linked through the online catalog system of the Laboratory's Library Without Walls.



### Waste Management Strategies for LANL- 1997

(LA-UR-97-4764)

<http://lib-www.lanl.gov/la-pubs/00412794.pdf>

### Overview of LANL- 1997

(LA-UR-97-4765)

<http://lib-www.lanl.gov/la-pubs/00412795.pdf>

### Description of Technical Areas and Facilities at LANL- 1997

(LA-UR-97-4275)

Part I— <http://lib-www.lanl.gov/la-pubs/00412796.pdf>

Part II— <http://lib-www.lanl.gov/la-pubs/00412797.pdf>



## **A call for employee participation in the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the public is invited to review and comment upon the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement during the public comment period from May 15 to July 15, 1998.

As Laboratory employees, we represent a special segment of the public because we are stakeholders in multiple ways:

- as workers on-site,
- as local residents and property owners
- as members of the regional community

And, as Laboratory employees, our unique perspective and understanding can be invaluable contributions to the effectiveness of the site-wide EIS, which will be used as a planning tool for the Laboratory's future.

### **How can you participate in reviewing the Draft?**

- offering your comments in person at the public meetings
- sending a written statement
- recording your comments on voice mail

When doing so, clarify that while you are a Laboratory employee, you are speaking here as a private citizen and stakeholder, and are not representing the Laboratory.

**Turn to Page 4 of this newsletter for public comment contact information, and for the dates and locations of the public meetings.**

### **Public Meeting Schedule**

Stakeholder review comments on the Draft SWEIS can be offered at these public meetings:

Los Alamos  
June 9, 1998

Santa Fe  
June 10, 1998

Española  
June 24, 1998

# You Can Make a Difference

## How To Find Us

The Site-Wide EIS Project Office, headed by Doris Garvey, is part of the ESH Division and located in TA-21, Building 210, Room 140.

Phone: 665-8969  
Fax: 665-8970  
Mail Stop: M889

## For More Information

### Hotline

Call the LANL Site-Wide EIS Hotline

**1-800-898-6623**

### Reading Room

The LANL Outreach Center and Reading Room has a special section devoted to documents relevant to the SWEIS, including written transcripts from the public scoping meetings and the Notice of Intent.  
1350 Central Avenue  
Suite 101  
Los Alamos

Phone:  
665-2127 or  
1-800-543-2342



## Public Meetings

All meetings will be held from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

**June 9, 1998**

Los Alamos  
DOE Los Alamos Area Office  
528 35th St.

**June 10, 1998**

Santa Fe  
Sweeney Center  
201 W. Marcy Street

**June 24, 1998**

Española  
Northern NM Community College  
1002 N. Oñate Street



## Oral Comments

Call the LANL Site-Wide EIS Hotline

**1-800-898-6623**

The hotline has instructions on how to record your comments.



## Written Comments

Direct to:

Corey A. Cruz  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque NM 87185-5400

## Supplemental Information

Copies of all written comments and transcripts of all oral comments from the pre-scoping and scoping meetings, as well as a copy of the Notice of Intent and the Implementation Plan, are available at the LANL Outreach Center and Reading Room at 1350 Central Avenue, Suite 101, Los Alamos.

Phone: 665-2127, or 1-800-543-2342.

*(Availability of SWEIS Draft continued from page 1)*

summarize the results of scoping, describe the scope of the SWEIS based on the scoping process, and present an outline for the Draft SWEIS. The Implementation Plan also included a discussion of the issues reflected in public comments during scoping.

When the comment period for the Draft is completed, the

SWEIS will be finalized after considering the comments received. The Final SWEIS, which will include responses to comments received on the Draft SWEIS, is scheduled to be published in November 1998. The DOE will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after the Final SWEIS Notice of Availability is published in the

Federal Register. The ROD will describe the rationale used for DOE's selection of an alternative or portions of the alternatives. Following the issuance of the ROD, a Mitigation Action Plan may also be issued to describe any mitigation measures that DOE commits to in concert with its decision.

